

II. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel having a central hub connected by at least one spoke to a rim, ~~and the steering wheel comprising~~ at least one heat pipe within the rim, the ~~or each~~ ~~said~~ heat pipe being thermally isolated from any external cooling arrangement and being configured to transfer heat from a first region of the rim to another region of the rim ~~solely under its own function~~.
2. (Original) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises a single heat pipe extending around substantially the entire extent of the rim.
3. (Original) A steering wheel according to Claim 2, wherein the heat pipe has a substantially circular configuration.
4. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises two heat pipes, each said heat pipe extending around approximately half of the circumferential extent of the rim.
5. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 4, wherein each ~~said~~ heat pipe of the heat pipes has a substantially semi-circular configuration.

6. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the two heat pipes are thermally connected to one another.

7. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to any preceding Claim Claim 1, wherein the ~~or~~ each heat pipe is provided with or connected to a heater.

8. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 7, wherein the ~~or~~ each heat pipe heater comprises a an electrical heating element.

9. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to any preceding Claim Claim 1 having the heat pipes pipe located only in the rim of the steering wheel.